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10/527,157	03/08/2005	Josef-Peter Guggenbichler	KSR0002/US	3151
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SUITE 200, MAPLE ISLAND BUILDING				
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EXAMINER				
GRUN, ROBERT J				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/527,157

**Applicant(s)**

GUGGENBICHLER ET AL.

**Examiner**

ROBERT J. GRUN

**Art Unit**

4111

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CIS) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/08/2005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- Regarding Claim 1: Claim 1 (c) suggests "adding a readily or sparingly soluble salt of an antimicrobial metal", however it is unclear to what the salt is being added. For the purposes of this action the Examiner assumes that the salt is added to the intermediate composition.
- Regarding Claim 5: Claim 5 requires a 2:1 ratio but does not claim whether the ratio is by weight, stoichiometry, volume, etc. For the purposes of this action the Examiner assumes that the ratio is that of percent by weight.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

4. Claims 1, 6-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobson et al. (US Patent No. 5,503,840).

- Regarding Claim 1: Jacobson teaches: a) forming an intermediate product consisting of an antimicrobial powder and a plastic, b) treating a constituent (barium sulfate) of the intermediate product with an antimicrobial colloidal metal by precipitating silver onto the barium sulfate , and c) adding a readily soluble salt of an antimicrobial metal in this case Copper (II) Nitrate (col. 5 line 32 through col. 6 line 43).
- Regarding Claim 6 and 7: Jacobson teaches using his antimicrobial formulation in the production of organic polymers, among which is polyurethane (col. 6 line 42).
- Regarding Claim 8-12: Jacobson teaches adding additional additives to the intermediate. Such additives consist of Alumina or boehmite (col. 5 line 47), silica (col. 6 line 8), dioctyl azelate (organic additive) (col. 5 line 53), as well as barium sulfate, titanium dioxide, or zinc oxide (col. 5 lines 31-32).
- Regarding Claims 13 and 14: Jacobson teaches the treating the constituent of the intermediate product consisting of barium sulfate (an inorganic particle) with colloidal Ag metal by reduction of Ag+ to Ag metal in solution (col. 5 lines 32-38 and col. 10 lines 49-51).
- Regarding Claim 16: Jacobson teaches the making of a plastic product in the instant case Nylon fibers (col. 12 line 41) but also teaches the product may be polyurethane (col. 6 line 42).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-5, 15, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson et al. (US Patent No. 5,503,840), as applied to claim 1 (for claims 2-5 and 18) and claim 16 (for claim 17) above, in view of Terry (US Patent 6,716,895).

- Regarding Claims 18 and 2: Jacobson teaches: a) forming an intermediate product, b) treating a constituent of the intermediate product with an antimicrobial colloidal metal, and c) adding a **readily** soluble salt (copper (II) sulfate) of an antimicrobial metal (col. 10 line 31 through col. 11 line 14). Jacobson fails to teach the addition of a sparingly soluble metal salt of an antimicrobial metal. Terry teaches the use of various oligodynamic metal salts to create a colloid (col. 4 lines 62-66). Terry varies the release kinetics of the oligodynamic metal ions including those of Ag, Cu, Au, Pt, Zn by using salts of sparing solubility such as silver sulfate and silver phosphate (col. 7 lines 14-17 and lines 23-31). A person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found it obvious to combine the teachings of Jacobson and Terry to create an article that had both surface antibacterial properties (Jacobson), due to the metal colloid, and a radius

of antibacterial properties (Terry col 8 line 23), due to the release of ions from the metal salt colloid.

- Regarding Claim 3: Jacobson teaches the invention as described in the rejection of claims 2 and 18, but fails to describe the use of silver sulfate or silver phosphate. Terry however does teach the use of oligodynamic metal salts including but not limited to silver sulfate and silver phosphate (col. 7 lines 23-31). For reasons stated above a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found the use of silver sulfate and silver phosphate to be obvious.
- Regarding Claims 4 and 5: Jacobson and Terry teach the invention as described above in the rejection of claim 3. Terry does not specify the percent of oligodynamic metal salt by weight in the final product, however one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would find it obvious that a coating would make a small percentage of the overall weight of the plastic article. The colloid in Terry is 15% by weight Ag. Jacobson teaches a range of Ag and Copper in the intermediate that ranges from 0.2%-1.0% for Ag and is 0.4% in Cu. Therefore teaching a Ag:Cu ratio of 2:1.
- Regarding Claim 15: Jacobson and Terry teach the invention as described in the rejection of Claims 1-2 and 18. For reasons stated above a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found the use of the sparingly soluble salts of silver sulfate and silver phosphate to be obvious.

Jacobson further teaches the extruding of the antimicrobial plastic (col. 11 lines 49-51).

- Regarding Claim 17: Jacobson teaches the invention as described above in the rejection of Claim 18. Jacobson however fails to teach the forming of the treated plastic precursors into catheters. Terry, however, teaches the use of oligodynamic metal salts to treat plastics articles such as catheters (abstract). Terry teaches creating varying the effective antimicrobial capability of the plastics based on the respective solubility's of the oligodynamic metal salts (abstract). A person having ordinary skill in the art (antimicrobial plastics) at the time of invention would have found it obvious to combine the teachings of Terry in order to form the plastics created in Jacobson, with both short term and long term antimicrobial properties.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 19 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 19 and 20 require zirconium silicate. The examiner was unable to find resources that use zirconium silicate as the carrier material for the colloid of the invention.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT J. GRUN whose telephone number is (571)270-5521. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 07:30-17:00 (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sam C. Yao can be reached on (570)272-1224. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RJG

/Sam Chuan C. Yao/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4111